THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The tola! amount of honorarium payable to a Government servant during a financial year is limited to Rs. 5000 under the powers delegated to the Ministries. There is no proposal to revise this limit further.

Functioning of Independent Regulatory Authority

2501. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of the independent regulatory authority is being brought under the purview of the audit by statutory bodies like the CAG because of recent events in stock market and telecom sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Conduct of audit of the accounts of the concerned regulatory bodies is done as per the provisions in the respective Acts under which these regulatory bodies have been set up.

(b) Information pertaining to Secruiues and Exchange Board of India (SEB I). Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Information relating to Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992No. 15 of 1992

(15) (2) The accounts of the Board shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor Genera! of India at such intervals as may be specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Board to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

15(3) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Board shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller, and Auditor General generally has in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and in particular shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Board.

Information Relating to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997
No. 24 *of* 1997

23. Accounts and audit

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at such intervals as maybe specified by him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such audit shall be payable by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(Explanation : For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the decisions of the Authority taken in the discharge of its functions under clause (b) of sub-section(l) and sub-section (2) of section 11 and section 13, being matters appealable to the Appellate Tribunal, shall not be subject to audit under his section).

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India and any other person appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Authority shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comtroller and Auditor General generally has, in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Authority.

'Bribery case against income tax officers'

2502. SHRIRAJUPARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "CBI recovers huge assets from I.T. man", appearing in the Asian Age, New Delhi dated the 26th June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the report and the number of Income Tax Officials who have been nabbed red-handed while accepting bribe during the last three years;

(c) what action has been taken against each of them; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to take to enhance the image of Income Tax Department in the eyes of public?